DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Abraham, let me assure you that Government realise to the fullest the importance of agriculture and also the unwisdom of its divorcement from irrigation, particularly, that form of irrigation which passed under the name of minor irrigation. At the present moment, there are before the Government certain proposals for the creation of an agency to deal with the question of minor irrigation in its bearings on agriculture and with the due association on it of officers of the Agricultural Department. These proposals are now under examination.

25. Suggestions for the development of agriculture with special reference to Pattanamtitta.

MR. NAGOOR MEERA MEERANAN MEERA ROWTHER (*Member, Nominated*) said that under ideal conditions each country should be able to produce its own necessaries. This was a difficult thing to achieve, but the ideal deserved to be kept in view by every country. So far as Travancore was concerned, she was depending for all her necessaries upon other countries. Even her staple food *viz.*, rice was being imported from foreign lands. It was highly necessary that this system should cease. Travancore should grow all the rice required for her own consumption. The following remedies might be tried for this purpose:—

(i) Swampy areas within all reserve forests should be thrown open to cultivation and assigned to cultivators on suitable conditions.

(ii) The boundaries of the Kumaranperur, Thekkummala and Vadakkummala reserves in the Pattanamtitta taluk should be altered and the portions of these reserves adjoining inhabited areas should be registered and given to the poor ryots in the locality. If this were not feasible, these lands should be given at least on *pattom* or *varam* to these poor ryots.

(iii) All available portions of the Kumaranperur, Thekkummala and Vadakkummala reserves in the Pattanamtitta taluk should be disafforested and assigned in small blocks not exceeding ten acres each to the Muslim inhabitants of the locality who had sustained very heavy losses in connection with the paddy cultivations which they undertook under the *taungya* system in the years 1100, 1101, and 1102.

(iv) The lands which were recently amalgamated with the Kumaranperur, Thekkummala and Vadakkummala reserves and which were till then in the occupation of the Muslim inhabitants of Pattanamtitta should be registered, in cases where they were already surveyed, in the names of those at whose instance the survey was done, and in cases where they were not surveyed, in the names of other persons either on *pattom* or *varam* for cultivation of paddy.

DEWAN'S REPLY: According to your request, I will go over there and inspect the places and then pass orders on the subject.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-50 P. M. to meet again the next day.

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